United Nations A/HRC/32/G/2

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 June 2016

Original: English

Human Rights Council
Thirty-second session
Agenda item 4
Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Note verbale dated 17 May 2016 from the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and has the honour to provide herewith the statements of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia, made on 2, 21 and 25 April 2016, regarding the military actions unleashed by Azerbaijan along the line of contact with Nagorno-Karabakh (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia kindly requests the Office of the High Commissioner to circulate the present note verbale and the annex thereto* as a document of the thirty-second session of the Human Rights Council under agenda item 4.

* Circulated as received, in the language of submission only.

GE.16-09638(E)
1609638

Please recycle

Annex

Statements made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia

2 April 2016

We strongly condemn the military actions, unleashed by the Azerbaijani armed forces last night along the entire Line of Contact with Nagorno-Karabakh and the border with Armenia, which targeted also civilian infrastructures and settlements.

Baku's continued efforts to undermine the negotiation process, including the recent rejection to meet with the Minsk Group Co-Chairs, along with reinforced military attacks by Azerbaijan are yet another futile attempts of blackmailing.

Baku blatantly defies numerous calls of the international community on the settlement of the conflict through negotiations. In recent days alone the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, the OSCE German Chairmanship, the US Vice President and the US Secretary of State have made such statements. And this is how Azerbaijan reacts to these calls.

On numerous occasions we have drawn the attention of the international community urging to curb Baku's military ambitions having in mind exactly such a development of the situation, created by today's actions of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan's yet another step to escalate the situation, given its large-scale nature, the weapons used and selected targets demonstrates that Baku has chosen to consistently escalate the situation, which makes it imperative for the international community to undertake practical measures to bring Azerbaijan to order.

21 April 2016

Today the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan disseminated yet another cynical statement turning obvious facts upside down in an attempt to put the responsibility on the Armenian side for military actions, unleashed on April 2 by Azerbaijan against Nagorno-Karabakh, the purpose of which is to avoid responsibility for the committed war crimes.

It is not for the first time that Baku makes futile attempts to distort the obvious reality. During communications our international partners have also confirmed that, beyond any doubt it was Azerbaijan, which initiated the large-scale offensive along the entire Line of Contact with Nagorno-Karabakh, resulting in hundreds of killed and maimed, and committed war crimes.

Armenia strongly condemns Azerbaijan's futile attempts to cast doubt on the trilateral ceasefire agreement of 1994, signed by Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia, that does not have time limitations. It is a dangerous step which threatens with further destabilization of the situation in the region. The aggressive military actions launched by Azerbaijan at the beginning of April could not result in the cessation of the 1994 agreement, rather they imply the liability of the party which violated the ceasefire.

All of this shows that, despite the calls of the international community to continue the negotiations under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmanship, Baku's

real intention is to undermine the settlement process. This is clearly demonstrated by the fact that the lengthy statement of the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry does not contain any reference not only to the statements of the heads of the Co-Chair countries on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict resolution but it also lacks any mentioning whatsoever of the only internationally mandated mediation format of the Minsk Group Co-Chairs.

Azerbaijan strives to portray the negotiations as a kind of a process that discusses solely those issues which fit Baku's interests.

It is obvious that calls and appeals are not sufficient anymore to bring Baku back to senses and definite steps are needed to bring Azerbaijan to order and into a constructive mood.

25 April 2016

Today at the UN General Assembly and Security Council Azerbaijan has disseminated yet another provocative letter dated April 14, 2016, where, striving to put the blame on Armenia, it unilaterally denounced May 12, 1994 trilateral ceasefire agreement signed between Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia without time limitations.

Armenia strongly condemns this step whereby Azerbaijan grossly breaches May 1994 ceasefire agreement, as well as casts doubt on the July 1994 agreement on the reinforcement of ceasefire and the February 1995 agreement on the consolidation of ceasefire. Notably, the July 1994 agreement requires Azerbaijan to "maintain the ceasefire regime until signing of the big political agreement".

In this regard the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs already have expressed their position to Azerbaijan, including at the OSCE, in particular stating that 1994 and 1995 agreements, whose terms do not expire, as before, make up the foundation of the cessation of hostilities in the conflict zone. The Co-Chairs called on to strictly adhere to the above-mentioned agreements and not to permit their violation. Disregarding this call, Azerbaijan resorted to this provocative step.

It is necessary to underline that the oral arrangement reached in Moscow on April 5, 2016, to which Azerbaijan refers in its letter, was directed at the cessation of aggressive actions unleashed by Azerbaijan against Nagorno-Karabakh and, as the Co-Chairs have stated, to restore the ceasefire regime. It is obvious, that the mentioned oral arrangement cannot replace the May 12, 1994 ceasefire agreement.

The 1994 and 1995 trilateral ceasefire agreements have for years served as a basis for preserving the fragile ceasefire. Any harm to these agreements is a serious obstacle for the peace process, hinders the efforts of the Co-Chairs and the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman in Office and undermines regional security.

Armenia urges the Co-Chair countries, the international community to immediately undertake all necessary measures to oblige Azerbaijan to strictly abide to the 1994 ceasefire agreement and to implement its international commitments to refrain from the threat or use of force.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia states that, taking into consideration the possible dangerous consequences emanating from this irresponsible step of Azerbaijan, and as a signatory party to 1994 and 1995 existing agreements on the ceasefire and the consolidation of the ceasefire, Armenia will exert every possible effort and carry out all necessary steps to guarantee the security of Nagorno-Karabakh and its population.